



NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE

Western Region Notes

February 12, 2004

REGIONAL DIRECTOR'S OFFICE



Leadership and Innovation for Tomorrow: I am pleased to announce a new leadership training program for Western Region employees. Leadership and Innovation For Tomorrow (LIFT) is designed to reach Western Region staff at all levels of their careers and help them develop leadership skills. The program will be open to ALL Western Region employees.

The 2-year LIFT program will be formally advertised by the regional office with details of the application process. Up to ten candidates will be selected each year to participate.

During the first year of the program, participants of LIFT can expect to attend a 1-week leadership workshop facilitated by Western Region leaders. In addition, participants will receive individual and group career counseling, leadership reading material, and resources to pursue training needs. In the second year of the program, participants will attend a 3-day workshop on the Seven Habits of Highly Effective People. In addition, they will continue to receive leadership reading material and financial support for leadership training in accordance with an Individual Development Plan. LIFT participants will either complete a detail within the region or complete a project aimed at enhancing their leadership skills. In addition, each participant will work with a mentor.

The first phase of the program began in December 2003 when our Western Region facilitators traveled to Fort Worth, Texas, to participate in training run by the Southern Region BLAST facilitators. Jim Campbell and Rob Hartman also participated in the Southern Region BLAST program the week of February 2.

The facilitators are involved in planning the agenda and content of the first class. The Western Region staff include: Chris Hill, Keith Meier, Rob Hartman, Dan Keeton, John Jannuzzi, Kim Runk, Jane Hollingsworth, and Brian Klimowski. The program administrators are Dee Wolf, Jim Campbell, and Bob Tibi.

I am excited about the program. An announcement for applications will be made in early Spring, targeting the first class to be held in September 2004. As details become available, we will share them with you.

WFOs Medford and Glasgow Receive Top Scores on Upper Air: Congratulations to WFOs Medford and Glasgow on their Upper Air Programs. The latest National Weather Service 12-month performance scores for the Upper Air Program places Medford's

program as number one and Glasgow's program as number three in the nation. Congratulations on a job well done!

Safety on the Job: During the Dupont Safety Training that was held in Salt Lake City last fall, Jim Campbell asked each of the offices to provide data on the number of accidents and injuries that occurred over the last two years. Thanks to the efforts of Sean Wink, the following is a breakdown of the number of incidents in Western Region:

	<u>FY02</u>	<u>FY03</u>	<u>Total</u>
Struck By	2	2	4
Laceration/Cuts	1	1	2
Slips/Falls	4	3	7
Contact With	2	2	4
Traveling in GOV	5	5	10
Exposure	0	1	1
Caught On	0	0	0
Exertion	3	5	8
Miscellaneous	2	4	6



A total of 42 incidents occurred over the 2-year period. Nearly 25 percent of the injuries were the result of traveling in a government vehicle. Nearly 20 percent of the injuries were a result of overexertion, and another 17 percent of the injuries were caused by slips or falls. As weather service employees, we all have a responsibility for safety. Accidents and injuries have an impact on the organization, our families, and most of all ourselves. The data shows that we need to exercise caution and good judgement in three areas: operating government vehicles, being careful not to over exert when performing physically demanding tasks, and carrying out proper safety procedures to avoid slips and falls. Each time you perform a task where safety procedures should be followed, please just take a minute to think about what is required to perform the job safely. Consider the example of an airline pilot that goes through a checklist each time there is a takeoff and landing. If each one of us were to go through a mental check list on what is required to do a job safely then we will go a long way in preventing injuries.

AROUND THE REGION



WCM Vernon Preston enjoys a bite of his winning chili.

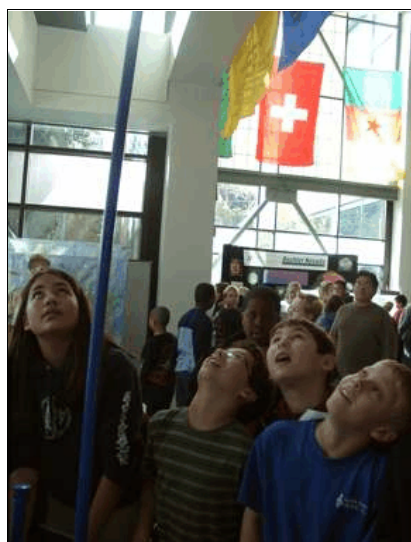
Is it Chilly or Chili? - A Ground Hog Day Celebration:

In order to promote team spirit and discover if they would have 6 more weeks of winter, WFO Pocatello hosted their first Ground Hog Day (Chilly) Chili cook-off contest. Staff were encouraged to bring in their special chili and some friends and spouses to judge and devour the festive concoctions.

Judging consisted of the following categories: Color, Taste/Flavor, Texture, Aroma/Smell, Spicy, Impression, and Overall Winner. WCM Vernon Preston was the overall winner with his Tennessee "Sour Mash" Chili.

Other tasty dishes were provided by ASA Donna Mills ("Off the Wall" Chili), SH Sherrie Hebert (A Maizeing Chili Con Carne), and SOO Dean Hazen ("Chili, Chili, GO Billy" Chili).

The event was so well received that next year the WFO plans to invite emergency managers to the contest as a way on discussing forecast trends for the coming spring and summer. By the way, Phil did see his shadow, so eastern Idaho is planning for additional winter episodes.



Kids at the "Jason" Project look up to the top of a blue pole, nearly 15 feet high – the depth of the record annual rainfall for the Project Jason location (Panama rain forest).

15,000 Visit WFO Las Vegas "Jason Project" Booth:

The WFO Las Vegas Outreach Team participated in NOAA's "Jason" Project by designing and staffing a booth which contrasted the desert climate of Las Vegas with the rain forest climate of Panama. (Note: Panama is the location of this year's "Jason" Project.) In addition to the NWS booth, several other government and private organizations also manned booths.

At each booth, students were asked to find answers to various questions, e.g. "How much more rain (than Las Vegas) does the rain forest in Panama receive annually?" (Answer: 104.01" in Panama vs. 4.49" in Las Vegas). All told, approximately 15,000 junior high and high school students visited the booths over the project's 2-week run in Las Vegas. After visiting each booth, the students were ushered into the auditorium where they interacted directly with researchers working in the rain forests of Panama via two-way television communication.

Montana Governor's Conference: On February 9-14, Meteorologists in Charge and Warning Coordination Meteorologists in Montana participated in the Montana Governor's Conference. This conference, attended by nearly 300 people, is cosponsored annually by the Montana Association of Counties and Disaster Emergency Services and brings together all the Disaster and Emergency Services Coordinators, as well as all the county commissioners to discuss matters of emergency response and preparedness. The NWS representatives showcased the NWS StormReady program and demonstrated new technologies such as the digital prototype forecast. They also explained the importance of education and preparedness in mitigating weather-related losses.

METEOROLOGICAL SERVICES DIVISION

Statement of the Week: This week's Statement of the Week is a winter weather advisory issued by forecaster Don Simonsen of WFO Glasgow MT. Eastern Montana has experienced several episodes of rather severe winter weather since the end of December. Snowfall to date is more than double the normal amount. This statement is

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in recognition of all the excellent work of our four WFOs serving Montana during this active winter season. Good work Don and all of the Montana staffs!

URGENT - WINTER WEATHER MESSAGE
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE GLASGOW MT
415 PM MST MON FEB 9 2004

MTZ018-019-061-100500-
DANIELS-NORTH VALLEY-SHERIDAN-
INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...OPHEIM...PLENTYWOOD AND SCOBAY NIGHT...

...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 AM TUESDAY MORNING
THROUGH 6 AM WEDNESDAY MORNING...

NORTH WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 25 TO 35 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 50 MPH
TUESDAY...AND CONTINUE THROUGH TUESDAY NIGHT. THIS WILL CAUSE A
PROLONGED PERIOD OF SEVERE BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW...AND VERY
POOR VISIBILITY. EXPECT NEW SNOWFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 2 TO 3
INCHES...BEFORE THE SNOW AND WIND TAPER OFF AND END WEDNESDAY.

WIND CHILLS WILL ALSO DROP BELOW 20 BELOW ZERO BY LATE TUESDAY
NIGHT.

PERSONS DRIVING OR GOING OUTSIDE SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR VERY
DIFFICULT AND HAZARDOUS TRAVEL AT BEST.

IF TRAVEL IS NECESSARY...MOTORISTS SHOULD BE PREPARED FOR SEVERE
WINTER WEATHER CONDITIONS. DRESS WARMLY AND MAKE SURE YOUR CAR
IS IN GOOD RUNNING CONDITION. BE SURE THAT YOUR CAR IS WINTERIZED
AND THAT BRAKES...LIGHTS...BATTERY...EXHAUST...HEATER
CONNECTIONS...DEFROSTER...AND WINDSHIELD WIPERS ARE IN GOOD
WORKING ORDER.

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MTZ016-017-020>027-059-060-062-100500-
CENTRAL AND SOUTHEAST PHILLIPS-CENTRAL AND SOUTHERN VALLEY
COUNTY-DAWSON-EAST ROOSEVELT—GARFIELD-MCCONE-NORTHERN
PHILLIPS-PETROLEUM-PRAIRIE-RICHLAND-SOUTHWEST PHILLIPS-WESTERN
ROOSEVELT COUNTY-WIBAUX-INCLUDING THE CITIES OF...CIRCLE...
CULBERTSON...GLASGOW...GLENDALE...JORDAN...MALTA...SIDNEY...TERRY...
WHITEWATER...WIBAUX...WINNETT...WOLF POINT AND ZORTMAN
415 PM MST MON FEB 9 2004

...WINTER WEATHER ADVISORY IN EFFECT FROM 6 AM TUESDAY MORNING
THROUGH 6 AM WEDNESDAY MORNING...

NORTH WINDS WILL INCREASE TO 25 TO 35 MPH WITH GUSTS TO 50 MPH TUESDAY...AND CONTINUE THROUGH TUESDAY NIGHT. THIS WILL CAUSE A PROLONGED PERIOD OF BLOWING AND DRIFTING SNOW WITH POOR VISIBILITY AT TIMES. EXPECT NEW SNOWFALL ACCUMULATIONS OF 1 TO 3 INCHES...BEFORE THE SNOW AND WIND TAPER OFF AND END WEDNESDAY.

WIND CHILLS WILL ALSO DROP BELOW 20 BELOW ZERO BY LATE TUESDAY NIGHT.

TO GET THE LATEST INFORMATION ON ROAD CONDITIONS...CALL THE MONTANA DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION ROAD REPORT NUMBER BY DIALING 5 1 1.

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SIMONSEN
WWW

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WFO San Joaquin Valley DAPM Martin Veloz (right) talks to a customer at the Ag Expo in Tulare.

WFO San Joaquin Valley Participates in World's Largest Ag Expo:

On February 10-12, staff from WFO San Joaquin Valley demonstrated the NWS National Digital Forecast Database (NDFD) during the 37th Annual World Ag Expo in Tulare, California. Attendees learned how the NDFD will provide benefits to weather providers who cater to world-wide agri-business. This event, the world's largest agricultural exposition, draws approximately 100,000 attendees from around the world.



Participants work on Ice Jan Exercise during the conference.

WFO Billings Participates in Ice Jam

Workshop: WFO Billings, in conjunction with the Custer County Department of Emergency Services (DES), hosted a workshop focusing on ice jams, which have periodically been a problem on rivers in Eastern Montana. The workshop was conducted at Miles Community College in Miles City, Montana, on February 5. Kathleen White, PhD, from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Cold Regions Research and Engineering Laboratory (in Hanover, NH) was the guest speaker. The theme of the workshop was "Ice Jam Mitigation:

Introduction to River Ice and Emergency Response." NWS employees from WFOs Billings, Glasgow, and Great Falls also gave presentations. There were 30 participants in the workshop, including Montana and Custer County DES Coordinators, Emergency Responders, a representative from WFO

Bismarck, and representatives from the Northern Cheyenne and Crow Indian Reservations.



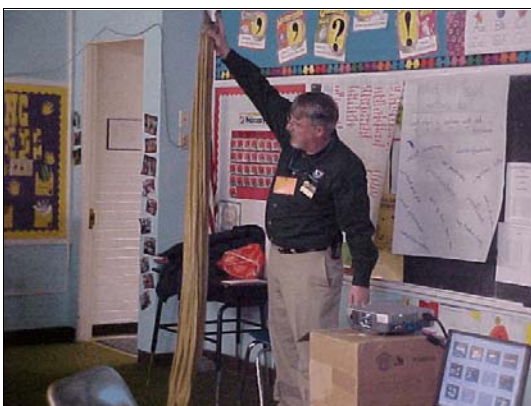
Troy Nicolini (lower left) helps prepare the Humboldt Bay buoy for deployment. The buoy anchor is at the right.

New Coastal Data Buoys Deployed in Northern California Coastal Waters:

On January 20, WFO Eureka assisted the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in deploying two new Coastal Data and Information Program (CDIP) buoys in the Northern California waters. Troy Nicolini (Service Hydrologist and WFO Eureka marine team member) coordinated the project by bringing in the Scripps personnel, delivering the buoy mooring rigging, and scheduling the Humboldt State University Research Vessel "Coral Sea" to deploy the buoys.

The first buoy (deployed near Cape Mendocino) is part of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography's CDIP network. The second buoy (deployed near the Humboldt Bay entrance) is part of a project involving WFO Eureka and the Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education and Training (COMET). This project will model nearshore waves using the "Simulation of Waves Nearshore" (SWAN) model. Data from the Humboldt Bay buoy will be used for model verification.

Troy Nicolini and WFO Eureka Warning Coordination Meteorologist (WCM) John Lovegrove worked closely with Scripps Institution of Oceanography and the captain of the "Coral Sea" to identify a favorable weather window to deploy the buoys during January — typically a stormy month on the Northern California coast. Data from the buoys includes wave information (direction, period, and energy) and sea temperature. The data is available (in near real-time) on the CDIP webpage: <http://cdip.ucsd.edu>.



WFO Great Falls HMT Ed Kurdy shows third graders in Townsend, Montana, what a weather balloon looks like before inflation.

WFO Great Falls Visit Townsend, Montana

School: WFO Great Falls Hydrometeorological Technician Ed Kurdy recently visited the Townsend, Montana, school district, presenting four talks to over 120 students. Presentations included slide shows and hands-on interaction to third and eighth graders. The eighth graders were presented information on career opportunities in meteorology (in three sessions). The third graders received a talk on weather safety and how NWS employees forecast weather. Feedback was extremely positive, including this response from Mia Whitfield (Townsend "school-to-work" coordinator):

"Ed. . .thank you so much for coming to our school and doing 8th and 3rd grade presentations. I spoke with the teachers this morning and they thought you were GREAT! The amount of information (and the quality of what you covered) really

impressed the teachers. Mrs. Alley said she had no idea that we had four weather service stations in Montana and that there were that many career possibilities for students. I have attached some pictures that Ms. Fischer took during the 3rd grade presentations. Hope you enjoy. Thank you so much for coming to our school."



Medford co-marine focal point Sven Nelaimischkies presents weather seminar topics to attendees at Brookings, OR.

WFO Medford Conducts Marine Weather Seminar in Brookings, Oregon:

WFO Medford conducted a 1-day marine weather seminar at the Grange Hall in Brookings, Oregon on January 10. Medford co-marine focal point Sven Nelaimischkies presented several topics, including an introduction to weather, a discussion of weather terminology, and a review of dangerous weather scenarios typical to the region. Approximately 30 people attended, consisting of a mix of recreational boaters from the local Yacht Club Chapter, several local fishermen, and a member from the Crescent City Yacht Club.

The session was kept informal, and questions were encouraged throughout the seminar. Extra time was set aside at the end for additional questions on subjects not specifically covered during the presentation. The talk was received with great enthusiasm, and a more in-depth (follow-up) marine weather seminar has been proposed for a later date.



Duane Dykema (WFO Monterey) and Marty Golden (NMFS Long Beach) answer questions at the NOAA information booth.

WFO Monterey Supports San Francisco Boat Show:

WFO Monterey helped staff a NOAA information booth at the San Francisco Boat Show, January 21-25. The joint effort involved the National Weather Service, the NOAA Office of Coast Survey, NOAA National Ocean Service, NOAA Fisheries (Enforcement), and three National Marine Sanctuaries along the Central California coast (Cordell Bank, Gulf of the Farallones, and Monterey Bay).

NOAA staff operating the booth greeted more than 300 members of the general public, providing information regarding the wide variety

of marine products and services. An internet connection allowed for real-time display of NWS marine forecasts, including some new gridded forecast products. The staff distributed a wide variety of marine weather brochures and demonstrated NOAA Weather Radio to the public. Visitors also had an opportunity to take a "NOAA Quiz," which included questions from each of the NOAA line offices. A NOAA Weather Radio was also on display.



MIC John Livingston (seated) briefs visitors on new prototype digital products from the WFO Spokane Internet site. Standing (in red, white, and blue) is Lead Forecaster Matt Fugazzi.

WFO Spokane Participates in 27th Northwest Farm Forum and Ag Expo:

WFO Spokane operated an information booth at the 27th annual Northwest Farm Forum and Ag Expo in Spokane, Washington, January 13-15. The NWS booth and other Expo displays were located in the Spokane Veterans Memorial Arena, while the forum and additional displays were located in the Spokane Convention and Ag Trade Center. The forum included over 80 seminars, with U.S. Representative George R. Nethercutt, Jr. (5th U.S. Congressional District) serving as the keynote speaker. Representative Northcutt's address focused on "Federal Farm Issues."

Displays at the event ranged widely -- from small hand-held farm tools to enormous combines. More than 6,000 people (mostly farmers) attended from Oregon, Washington, and Idaho. NWS staff from WFO Spokane made contact with many professional farmers over the course of this 3-day event. A dial-up Internet connection was also available, enabling real-time display of current and prototype (digital) NWS products. There was considerable interest among customers, with many expressing appreciation for NWS observations, forecasts, warnings and other weather and climate services.

SCIENTIFIC SERVICES DIVISION

Winter Storms Reconnaissance (WSR) and Special Observations for 2004: The Monterey Forecast Office is serving as the Western Region coordination focal point for this season's Winter Storms Reconnaissance (WSR) Program. This program will continue through March 15. The goal of the program is to deploy targeted dropsondes well out over the Pacific from aircraft flying out from Honolulu and Anchorage. The objective is to improve the NCEP model forecasts for critical weather situations when there is significant model disagreement or uncertainty. For the western U.S., the constraints of the program are such that the forecast event typically has to be identified and a request made 60 to 96 hours in advance of affecting the west coast.

The procedure WR office should follow to request additional observations:

- 1) Call Monterey forecaster office no later than 5:30 a.m. PST. Monterey must prepare and send the request to the NCEP SDM no later than 6:30 a.m. PST (9:30 a.m. EST).
- 2) Please include the forecast event of interest identified by latitude/longitude and date/time, along with a brief description of need and a priority.

For additional information on the current WSR program:

<http://www.emc.ncep.noaa.gov/gmb/targobs/target/wsr2004.html>

(note that the url starts wwwt rather than www)

WR Webmaster Workshop, Jan 27-29, Reno: The webmaster workshop focused on upgrading to the new web farm and support architecture, IFPS web page implementation, standardized Climate and AHPS web pages, NWS and DOC web policy, security, and other issues. The workshop had at least one participant from all WR offices, Alaska Region, Pacific Region, and the NWSHQ Chief Information Office (CIO). Each attendee received a workshop booklet, and the webmasters have been encouraged to provide the office management on the emerging web policies and practices that will affect all web pages. A special thanks to all that attended and participated in the workshop.

Advanced Warning Operations Course (AWOC): The dates for the “train the trainer” portion of The Advanced Warning Operations Course have been set. All WFOs/RFCs are required to send the SOO/DOH or radar focal point to this one week course at the WDTB in Norman OK. WR course slots will be weighted toward the September course dates in case of another busy fire weather season. A formal call for WR WFO trainers to request their course week will occur in mid-February with a mid-March deadline. **WFOs should take this mandatory course into account when setting up their summer annual leave schedule over the next few months.** The AWOC course dates are:

August 3-5, 2004
August 17-19, 2004
August 24-26, 2004
August 31-Sep 2, 2004
Sep 14-16, 2004
Sep 21-23, 2004

AWOC will provide updated radar training to all NWS forecasters in the fall and winter of 2004/2005.

COMET Outreach Proposal Deadlines, March 15: The Cooperative Program for Operational Meteorology, Education, and Training (COMET) has announced its 2004 Outreach Program Request for Proposals (RFP) for Cooperative Projects. The final version of the NWS Cooperative proposal must be submitted to the COMET Outreach Program by March 15, 2004.

The Cooperative Projects may be one to three years in duration and typically have budgets with a range from about \$20,000 to \$41,000. More information and submission requirements can be found online at: <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/outreach/coop.htm>.

The COMET Program is also accepting proposals for Partners Projects. The average Partners Project has been approximately \$7,000 (excluding those items funded directly by the NWS). Since Partners Project funds are limited, it is unlikely a proposal will be funded if its budget significantly exceeds the average. Additional information and submission requirements are available at: <http://www.comet.ucar.edu/outreach/part.htm>.

WR PD&T and Intern Report - Due April 15: The office semi-annual Professional

Development and Training Plan (PD&T) Report is due April 15.

SYSTEMS OPERATIONS DIVISION



Facilities - One Tuff Road to Plow! Facilities Engineering Technician Dean Prowker and Electronics Technician Steve Veek worked long hours over the past weekend (often by flashlights and head lamps) to restore power to the Stockton, CA ASOS. A new 400 foot long, 24 inch deep trench had to be dug through some pretty tuff earth after the previous under ground power shorted the line to ground. Great Team work!



Electronics Program: Vickie Nadolski, Sean Wink, and Joe Lachacz visited WFO Missoula to conduct a SOD Program review. The Program review went very well and was a great experience for both WFO Missoula and WRH. The visit also included an “adventurous” snow cat and snowmobile ride to the Point Six Radar.

Son Nguyen (Radar RMS) visited the Tucson, AZ and Flagstaff, AZ Radar sites. Son assisted electronics staff, performed routine checks and also identified and fixed problems at both locations.

OOS/SOD/EPM Conference: The Office of Operational Systems / Systems Operations Division / Electronics Program Manager Meeting was held last week in Silver Spring, MD. Bob Diaz and Jeff Walker from SOD represented Western Region at the meeting. A summary of the discussions covering a wide range of topics will be made available to field offices.